

Hobbies

A rare 1894-S dime sells for \$275,000 at auction — triple the estimate

By Roger Boye

A rare 1894-S dime has sold at auction for \$275,000—a record price for one U. S. 10-cent piece and more than triple a presale estimate.

"High quality, high class, high rarity coins continue to bring exceptional prices in today's market," said Lawrence R. Stack of Stack's, the New York coin company that conducted the mid-January sale. Earlier that month a Stack's spokesman predicted that the 1894-S dime would bring approximately \$75,000.

The San Francisco Mint struck just 24 dimes in 1894, a dozen of which are known today. The specimen sold in January may be the finest of the 12.

Heritage Rare Coin Galleries of Dallas bought the coin as agent for a collector, who was not identified. James L. Halperin, co-

chairman of Heritage, said the Professional Coin Grading Service recently judged the dime to be "proof-66," a grade classification reserved for exceedingly beautiful, nearly flawless coins.

"Now that the dime's in a PCGS holder marked 'proof-66,' I'm certain it could be re-sold in the \$400,000 range," Halperin said.

The previous auction record for a U. S. dime was set in 1980 when another of the 1894-S dates went for \$145,000.

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The American Numismatic Association—the nation's largest organization of coin collectors—will award scholarships to as many as 17 teenagers to attend the ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs.

From July 8 to 14 participants will study subjects such as coin grading, counterfeit coins and

U. S. and world paper money. Scholarships pay for tuition, room, board and round-trip air fare to Colorado.

For an application, write to the ANA Educational Services Department, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903, or call, toll-free, (800) 367-9723. Deadline is April 10 and applicants must be between 13 and 17 years old.

The ANA also will select four persons between ages 18 and 21 to work in its Colorado Springs headquarters from June 18 to Aug. 17 (application deadline Feb. 15) and three undergraduate or graduate students to work in its world-class Money Museum at the headquarters (application deadline March 1). Write or call the ANA for more information.

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The Chicago Coin Bourse will continue to operate from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at the Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300 Touhy Ave. in Niles, said Chicago coin dealer Louis Goldstein of Lucky Lou Coins. Goldstein bought the bourse from the estate of long-time Skokie collector Benjamin Odesser, who estab-

lished it in February 1962. About 20 coin dealers sell and buy rare coins at the bourse, and Goldstein said free coin appraisals will be provided. Admission to the bourse is free.

Odesser died on Jan. 10 at age 79. He was a nationally known token and medal expert.